Contents

Welcome v
Before You Begin vi
Notational Conventions vii
How to Use This Guide vii

1 Learning About MS-DOS 1
Terms You Should Know 2
Program 2
File 2
Filename 3
Directory 4
Volume Label 4
Disk Drive 4
Drive Name 5
The Default Drive and the MS-DOS Prompt 5
Command 6
Devices 6
Device Names 6
Error Messages 7
Memory 7
Keys You Use with MS-DOS 7
The Return Key 8
Keys that Move the Cursor 8
Control Key Combinations 8

2 Learning About Disks, Files, and Directories 11
Floppy Disks 12
Disk Protection 13
3.5-inch Disks 14
Hard Disks 15
The Format Command 16
How to Name Your Files 16
Invalid Filenames 17
Directories 17

3 Getting Started 19
How to Start MS-DOS 19
How to Quit 21
How to Make a Backup Copy of Your MS-DOS Disk 21
If You Have a Hard Disk 23
If You Have Only One Floppy Disk Drive 26

4 Using Commands 27
File Commands 27
The Dir Command 27
The Copy Command 29
The Del Command 30
The Rename Command 31
The Type Command 32
The Print Command 33
Disk Commands 34
The Format Command 34
The Diskcopy Command 36

5 Using Applications with MS-DOS 39
How to Run Application Programs 39
A Note About Using Application Programs 41
How to Create a File with Edlin 41

6 Setting Up MS-DOS 45
The Config.sys File 45
The Autoexec.bat File 47
How These Special Files Differ 48
Summary 49

Terms 51

Index 57